

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A terminal device connected, in a communication-enabled manner, with a center device, so that image and/or sound data is received from the center device, the center device being connected with at least one external device, the terminal device comprising:

a communication section for communicating with the center device; and

a control section for controlling an operation of the terminal device,

the control section including:

information acquiring means for acquiring, from the center device via the communication section, identification information for identifying the external device;

remote-operation data producing means for generating remote-operation data when a remote operation is performed with respect to the external device, the remote-operation data containing (a) remote operation information indicating content of the remote operation, and (b) identification information of the external device to be subjected to the remote operation; and

remote-operation data transmitting means for transmitting, to the center device via the communication section, the remote-operation data having been generated by the remote-operation data producing means,

wherein:

the information acquiring means further acquires, from the center device via the communication section, device-use-information indicating a use-status of the external device; and

the remote-operation data producing means, the remote-operation data transmitting means, or both means judges, based on the device-use-information, whether or not the operation is performed, and

wherein the device-use-information is (a) TERMINAL information indicating a terminal device using the external device, (b) OPERATION ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is possible to perform remote operation by using another terminal device, (c) VIEWING ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is

possible to view/listen to an image and/or sound outputted from the external device by using the other terminal device, or (d) any combination of (a), (b), and (c).

2. (Previously presented) The terminal device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a remote-controller signal receiving section for receiving a remote-controller signal from a remote-controlling device for use in remotely operating the terminal device, wherein the remote-operation data producing means of the control section generates the remote-operation data, based on the remote-controller signal received by the remote-controller signal receiving section.

3. (Original) The terminal device as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
the remote-operation data producing means generates remote-controller information, based on the remote-controller signal, and adds the identification information to the remote-controller information, so as to generate the remote-operation data.

4. (Currently amended) A center device, to which at least one external device is connected, for transmitting image and/or sound data to a terminal device, the center device comprising:

- a communication section for communicating with the terminal device;
- a storage section for storing therein identification information for identifying the external device; and
- a control section for controlling an operation of the center device,
the control section including:
 - identification information transmitting means for transmitting, to the terminal device via the communication section, the identification information stored in the storage section;
 - remote-operation data acquiring means for acquiring, from the terminal device via the communication section, remote-operation data for remotely operating the external device, the remote-operation data containing (a) remote-controller information indicating content of the remote operation, and (b) identification information of the external device to be subjected to the remote operation; and

remote control means for remotely operating, in accordance with the remote-controller information in the remote-operation data, the external device corresponding to the identification information in the remote-operation data acquired by the remote-operation data acquiring means,

wherein:

the storage section further stores therein device-use-information indicating a use-status of the external device; and

the remote operation means judges, based on the device-use-information, whether or not the remote operation is performed, and

wherein the device-use-information is (a) TERMINAL information indicating a terminal device using the external device, (b) OPERATION ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is possible to perform a remote operation by using another terminal device, (c) VIEWING ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is possible to view/listen to an image and/or sound outputted from the external device by using the other terminal device, or (d) any combination of (a), (b), and (c).

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The center device as set forth in claim 4, further comprising an infrared transmitting section for transmitting a signal, in a form of infrared light, to the external device, the signal being used for the remote operation means to remotely operate the external device.

7. (Previously presented) A communication system wherein the terminal device set forth in claim 1 is connected, in a communication-enabled manner, with the center device.

8. (Original) The communication system as set forth in claim 7, wherein the terminal device and the center device perform a wireless communication.

9. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a terminal device which is connected, in a communication-enabled manner, with a center device so that image and/or sound data is received from the center device to which at least one external device is connected, wherein:

the terminal device includes a communication section for communicating with the center device; and

the method includes the steps of:

acquiring, from the center device via the communication section, identification information for identifying the external device;

generating remote-operation data when a remote operation is performed with respect to the external device, the remote-operation data containing (a) remote operation information indicating content of the remote operation, and (b) identification information of the external device to be subjected to the remote operation; and

transmitting the remote-operation data, which has been generated, to the center device via the communication section,

wherein:

in the acquiring step, device-use-information indicating a use-status of the external device is further acquired from the center device via the communication section; and

in at least either one of the generating step and the transmitting step, it is judged, based on the device-use information, whether or not the operation is performed; and

wherein the device-use-information is (a) TERMINAL information indicating a terminal device using the external device, (b) OPERATION ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is possible to perform remote operation by using another terminal device, (c) VIEWING ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is possible to view/listen to an image and/or sound outputted from the external device by using the other terminal device, or (d) any combination of (a), (b), and (c).

10. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a center device to which at least one external device is connected, the center device being for transmitting image and/or sound data to a terminal device, wherein:

the center device includes (a) a communication section for communicating with the terminal device, and (b) a storage section for storing therein identification information for identifying the external device and device-use information indicating a use-status of the external device; and

the method includes the steps of:

transmitting, to the terminal device via the communication section, the identification information stored in the storage section;

acquiring, from the terminal device via the communication section, remote-operation data for remotely operating the external device, the remote-operation data containing (a) remote-controller information indicating content of the remote operation, and (b) identification information of the external device to be subjected to the remote operation; and

remotely operating, in accordance with the remote-controller information in the remote-operation data, the external device corresponding to the identification information in the remote-operation data that has been acquired,

wherein

in the remote operation performing step, it is judged, based on the device-use-information stored in the storage section, whether or not the remote operation is performed, and

wherein the device-use-information is (a) TERMINAL information indicating a terminal device using the external device, (b) OPERATION ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is possible to perform a remote operation by using another terminal device, (c) VIEWING ENABLED/DISABLED information indicating whether or not it is possible to view/listen to an image and/or sound outputted from the external device by using the other terminal device, or (d) any combination of (a), (b), and (c).

11. (Previously presented) A terminal device controlling program for operating the terminal device set forth in claim 1, the terminal device controlling program causing a computer to function as the control section.

12. (Previously presented) A center device controlling program for operating the center device set forth in claim 4, the center device controlling program causing a computer to function as the control section.

13. (Previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium storing the terminal device controlling program set forth in claim 11 and/or the center device controlling program.

14. (Previously presented) A terminal device controlling program for operating the terminal device set forth in claim 2, the terminal device controlling program causing a computer to function as the control section.

15. (Previously presented) A terminal device controlling program for operating the terminal device set forth in claim 3, the terminal device controlling program causing a computer to function as the control section.

16-18. (Canceled)